

Serial No. 10/518,309
Atty. Doc. No. 2002P03697WOUS

REMARKS

Claims 16 and 34 have been amended. Claims 35-36 have been added. No claims have been canceled by way of this response. Thus, claims 16-27, 30, 32-36 are presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to rejections under Section 102:

Claims 16-21, 25-27, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Gutter et al. (USPN 4,696,908).

Gutter discloses a strap [10] that includes the contact part [16] and that requires a separate clamp [30] to secure the strap onto the cable [Gutter, column 4, lines 10-15]. After the strap has been secured, the clamp is removed. [Gutter, column 4, lines 57-60]

In contrast, claims 16 and 34 recite an arc-shaped contact part formed as a cable clip. Using an arc-shaped contact part formed as a cable clip is not merely a design choice. In fact, significant manufacturing and installation advantages occur when the contact part is formed as the cable clip. For example, the cable clip is made from a punched and shaped component and the teeth are bent radially inward requiring [See paragraph 16]. Thus only a single processes to manufacture the clip is needed, whereas Gutter would require an additional process since the clamp is a different device than the clip. Likewise, installation of the Gutter clip involves more steps.

Furthermore, applicant's claims 16 and 34 as amended recite the gear ring has a plurality of rigid stops bent radially inward the stops centering the cable in the fastened state. The Examiner interprets Gutter's concave portion [18] of the strap as stops. However, the concave portion of strap tends to flatten out during installation [Gutter, column 4, 57-68] which could distort the cable. Additionally, the concave portions provide a spring like action [Gutter, column 4, 57-68]. The flexibility of Gutter's stop would not provide a centering of the cable whereas applicant's rigid stops would provide a centering of the cable.

New claims 35-36:

New claims 35, which depends on claim 16, further defines the scope of the invention, as described in the specification and drawings. In view of the foregoing remarks regarding the other

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claims, Applicant respectfully submits claim 35 as patentable and requests allowance of claim 35.

New claims 36, which depends on claim 34, further defines the scope of the invention, as described in the specification and drawings. In view of the foregoing remarks regarding the other claims, Applicant respectfully submits claim 36 as patentable and requests allowance of claim 35.

Conclusion

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: J.P. Musone
John P. Musone
Registration No. 44,961
(407) 736-6449

Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830